convenience and danger of the passenger; and if this plan were carefully carried out, there would be no need to water the streets at any other time, as there would be very little or no dust left to require it. The streets should be watered by water from the Thames (which would be also available in case of fire, and for cleansing the sewers), and which should be laid on to every street, &c., by pipes, which should be always kept charged, and applied to the streets by means of plugs, and a hose with a wide-mouthed, finely-perforated rose at the end.

The fourth point is the supply of water, which the Act should require to be constant and universal,—that is to say, the pipes, which should be always charged, should extend to every public place, and the water should be laid on to every dwelling-house, and supplied at a moderate charge. Should the sewers, as proposed, be diverted from the Thames, its water might perhaps be available for domestic purposes as well as for the watering, and perhaps occasional washing, of the streets, cleaning sewers, extinguishing fires, &c. All public pumps and springs should be carefully preserved and kept in order, and others formed in localities where they do not at present exist.

Then, as to the supply of gas. The Act should require every public place, whether street, court, or alley, to be well lighted with good gas, at a moderate price; and should the existing companies refuse to do this, or in places where no gas-works exist, the sanitary commission or commissioners should be required to establish works of their own; and the profits derived from this source should be applied to the reduction of the rates. Electricity might be applied to the lighting of the public lamps with advantage.

Instead of burying the gas, water, electric telegraph, or any other pipes under the roadways, as at present, they should, as already urged by you, be inclosed in underground tunnels, somewhat similar to sewers, with communications with every house, &c., by means of earthenware or terro-metallic pipes, so that any alterations or repairs to the pipes might be done at any time without the necessity of breaking up the roadways and paving, the expense of which would, of course, be saved.

Oxygen gas might, perhaps, be manufactured on a large scale, and supplied by means of pipes, &c., in the same way as the carburetted hydrogen now is, for the purpose of producing the brilliant light known by the name of the Bude light, or for increasing the combustion in furnaces, &c., for which purpose bellows are now used; and the underground ways would afford great facilities for laying the pipes along the streets, and communicating them with the houses, without the least occasion for opening the ground or taking up the paving and stopping the traffic. Should electric clocks ever come into general use, these ways might also be available for this purpose.*

Then, as to the prevention of intra-mural burial: this should be rendered compulsory by the Act; and vaults or burial-grounds which are in a very bad state, should be covered over with concrete and asphalte; and in churchyards or burial-grounds, where the interments have not been so numerous or recent as to require this, trees might be planted (as suggested in THE BUILDER), and the surface covered with gravel or with fresh earth, and turfed.

The consideration of other points must be left till next week. A LONDONER.

WATER AND DRAINAGE.—At Richmond-terrace, Clifton, last week, according to the *Bristol Times*, there was scarcely a family which had not some of its members sick. It was not, however, until one death took place and several were in imminent danger, that the cause of this extensive illness was discovered, when it turned out to be produced by the use of a spring which supplied the place, and whose waters had been imperceptibly poisoned by a sewer breaking into it, and so greatly vitiating their character as to cause gastric fever in every family using it! On being found out, of course the evil was remedied, but not before much mischief had been done, and the necessity both for a pure supply of water and an improved system of drainage shewn.

* A supply of oxygen to improve the air in some buildings would be valuable, if it could be properly regulated.—ED.

WORKS IN PARIS.

THE choir of the church of *St. Germain des Prés* has been decorated elaborately. The vaultings are painted blue, sprinkled with gold stars; the walls present figures of saints and archangels larger than life, on a gold ground; the columns and the groinings are painted of various colours, and all the windows are filled with stained glass.

Rapid progress is being made in the works at the *Sainte-Chapelle*, and a magnificent result may be expected. The clusters of columns, the groins, the windows, and walls, are resplendent with colour, gilding, and enamel. An enormous sum has been spent there.

At the celebrated hospital of *Bicêtre* considerable works are going on, a part of the old structure being demolished for rebuilding. The cost is estimated at 12,000*l.*

Designs for a new *Palais de Justice* have been approved of by the *Conseil-Général de la Seine*, the expense of which would be about 500,000*l.*

The entrance-front of the Hotel *Soubise*, appropriated to the archives of the kingdom, has been adorned with groups of statues, and the peristyle of the principal entrance restored.

SOMETHING FROM AMERICA.

IN an American paper we find an article, apparently from the pen of Mr. N. P. Willis, on the Art-Union of New York, which appears to be making satisfactory progress. The writer calls it a Rialto which bridges over the chasm between artists and the public, and says,—"The flowering of a plant which has been hitherto only known for its foliage, is a true but insufficient type of the relation which the formation of the art-union bears to the progress of our country,—for though a combined attention to art awakens an embellishing taste in all things, it has a fruit as well as a flower, viz., a counter-growth to the canker of business, and an ennobling substitute, for the excitements of care and anxiety, to successful merchants who retire to use their acquisitions. We look upon the 'Art-Union,' indeed, as, properly, our country's first conservatory for gentlemen; where men of taste and natural refinement, as well as wealth, may be made honorary officers and patrons of art, as, by a king, they are made counts and baronets for the same qualities and deservings."

In a second paper there is an article by Dr. Dewey, another American writer, on Mr. Power's beautiful statue, "The Greek Slave," exhibited in London some time ago. Those of our readers who remember it, will admit the truth of the following:—

"'The Greek Slave' is clothed all over with sentiment; sheltered, protected by it from every profane eye. Brocade, cloth of gold, could not be a more complete protection than the vesture of holiness in which she stands. For what does she stand there? To be sold; to be sold to a Turkish harem! A perilous position to be chosen by an artist of high and virtuous intent. A perilous point for the artist, being a good man, to compass. What is it? The highest point in all art. To make the spiritual reign over the corporeal; to sink form in ideality; in this particular case, to make the appeal to the soul entirely control the appeal to sense; to make the exposure of this beautiful creature foil the intent for which it is made; to create a loveliness such that it charms every eye, and yet that has no value for the slave-market, that has no more place there than if it were the loveliness of infancy; nay, that repels, chills, disarms the taste that would buy. And how complete is the success! I would fain assemble all the licentiousness in the world around this statue, to be instructed, rebuked, disarmed, converted to purity by it!"

The house in which Franklin spent his boyhood is threatened with demolition. A Boston paper says,—

"It will not be many years before this monument of the most celebrated man that Boston—not to say America—ever produced, will be demolished, and the place that knows it will know it no more, unless something be done to save it. It will be a burning shame and a lasting disgrace to Boston, with all its wealth, and its pretensions to liberality, and its affectation of reverence for its great men, to suffer the most historical of its houses to be destroyed, when the rise of real estate in that neighbourhood shall seal its doom. It is a shame that it has been left so long to take the chances of business! It should have been bought years ago, and placed in the hands of the Historical Society, or some other permanent body, in trust, to be preserved for ever in its original condition. It is not too late to restore it to something like its first estate, and to save it from utter destruction. If it be not done, it will be a source of shame and sorrow when it is too late."

On this subject the *Washington Union* remarks,—"The present fashion in our cities, of modernizing everything ancient, together with the increased and fast increasing value of building lots, is rapidly uprooting from our hearts a spirit of feeling which should never be destroyed—a feeling of veneration for the mementos of our great and remarkable men. Their ancient dwelling-places, which, but a glance at, used to bring up such countless recollections, are being rapidly obliterated. The old dwelling-house and shop, with all that association throws around them, are torn down to give place to some stately mansion, where man's pride and pomp may glory and display itself, or some spacious warehouse, where his goods may be stored and his gains counted."

THE STATE OF THE BUILDING TRADE.

SIR,—I am gratified, as will no doubt be many in the trade, to find the leading article of your last number but one touching upon the subject of competition, and more gratified to find you promising to return speedily to it. It is a subject of such grave and serious importance, that doubtless there is scarcely any thing at the present time which more requires continued and increased agitation, in order that men's eyes may be opened to see the absurdities they have been indulging in, by carrying out the pernicious system to trade of making contracts any how, and under any terms and obligations. In the present disastrous state of things it would be well if all our journals were found endeavouring to outvie one another in exposing the follies, and I may justly say cruelty, produced by fostering the bane to a nation's welfare and the good feeling of its various members in society. So great a curse is competition, and so great a drawback to every thing that is just and honourable to a country, especially such as this, that it is the duty of a just and humane government to make a most searching inquiry into its effects, and the present and probable consequences to the people in general. You say you have received a number of letters of a contradictory character. This must naturally be expected, as it is not likely that the class who are benefited by the oppression of their less fortunate brethren should be anxious for a change. When we find a young architect, who, having little or no connection, in order to obtain one, stoops to means knavish and worthless, can we expect such a one to desire a change from the present reckless, cut-throat system? As an illustration, I herewith mention a circumstance, one out of many that have come within my own notice. A few years since I was acquainted with a shrewd intelligent man, one of our old-school surveyors, who was occasionally employed by a young man, an architect,—one who had but a short time previously commenced business,—to take out quantities for builders to tender from for various works he had occasionally to execute. The instructions we received from him were to this effect: "I wish you to understand that I require, in taking out your measurements, that you cut them as fine as a hair (a term not unknown to many pettifogging surveyors at the present time), pinch them, in fact, every way. The interests of the builder stand to us for nothing; the interest only of our *clients* we must regard." But this worthy young architect—this young wiseacre—knew not the integrity of the man with whom he was dealing. It has been frequently remarked, and I regret to say it is a fact beyond all dispute, that architects have been great auxiliaries to the ruin of the trade, as hundreds of examples would tend to confirm. I will furnish one of many within my own knowledge.

About ten years since a builder, with whom I had been long acquainted, had among his customers a gentleman of rank and title, and for whom, at various times and to his satisfac-

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